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Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00160007

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria/Palestine

DATE DISTR. 16 June 1948

SUBJECT

Migration of Bulgarian Jews to Palestine

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

CORRECTION TO

A distribution bearing the number [REDACTED] was issued on 11 June 1948. This distribution was erroneously numbered and [REDACTED] should be changed to read [REDACTED]

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Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

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Auth: [illegible]

Date: 5/04/78 By: 024

This document is hereby regarded to
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letter of 18 October 1978 from the
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INFORMATION ON THE

COUNTRY

Bulgaria/Palestine

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DATE DISTR. 15 June 1948

SUBJECT
25X1C

Migration of Bulgarian Jews to Palestine

NO. OF PAGES 2

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Source states that there are approximately 46,000 Jews in Bulgaria, of whom 44,000 are Sephardic (Spanish) Jews and 2,000 are Ashkenazic (German, Austrian, Polish) Jews. He claims that all of these Jews desire to emigrate to Palestine, for one of the following reasons: (a) religious motives; (2) desire to join relatives now in Palestine (source states that there are approximately 10,000 Jewish families in Bulgaria having sons or close relatives in Palestine, primarily as the result of the first migration which took place in 1925); and (c) opposition to communism.
2. The first migration of Bulgarian Jews since the war took place late in December 1947 when several hundred Jews between the ages of 17 and 35 departed from Burgas aboard the PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK. The local Zionist organization allegedly selected emigrants on the basis of loyalty to the Zionist cause, number of relatives residing in Palestine and potential contribution to the economy of Palestine. The Bulgarian government refused to permit the removal of any property from the country and each emigrant departed with not more than a knapsack or suitcase. A collective passport was issued for the group.
3. A second group left Bulgaria around the middle of February, via Prague, Paris and Marseilles. Each person carried a Bulgarian passport and a Palestinian certificate issued by the British. These emigrants were in the same age group, and, as in the first migration, 60 percent of the emigrants were men.
4. A third group departed early in March, also bearing Bulgarian passports and Palestinian certificates; while a fourth group is waiting to leave for Palestine. There are said to be about 40 communist agents in the latter group.
5. Not more than two percent of the Bulgarian Zionists, which comprise the largest group of Jews desiring to go to Palestine, are communists. It is stated that about half of this number are idealists who were communists before 9 September 1944, when the communists gained control in Bulgaria, and that the remainder are opportunists who "still want to do business".

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letter of 18 October 1971 from the
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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-10457R00160077

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6. Source denied any knowledge of an arrangement whereby a per capita payment was made to the Bulgarian government for each Jew permitted to leave the country. He stated that the Bulgarian government considered the Jews anti-communist and non-assimilable, and that their opposition to communism cancelled any economic value they might have had. Source anticipated that the Bulgarian government would probably change its policy in the near future, however, in line with action taken by Rumania, Czechoslovakia and other satellite countries which have made it increasingly difficult for Jews to leave.
7. Source emphasized that none of the Jewish emigrants has had any military training. He states that prior to 9 September 1944, no Jews were permitted in the Bulgarian Army. Instead, they served in the labor corps. Since 9 September only a few Jews have been called on for military service, and no Jews are being remobilized in the current mobilization because none had served in the Bulgarian Army prior to 9 September.

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